

1                                   **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
2                                   **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

3   ROBERT WILLIAM DOWNS, II,

Case No. 3:22-cv-00075-RCJ-CLB

4                                   Petitioner,

**ORDER**

5   v.

6   STATE OF NEVADA, et al.,

7                                   Respondents.

8           Following upon the notice of appearance (ECF No. 10) by the Federal Public Defender,

9           IT IS ORDERED that the Federal Public Defender, through Alicia R. Intriago, Esq., is  
10 appointed as counsel for petitioner pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(a)(2)(B). Counsel will represent  
11 petitioner in all federal proceedings related to this matter, including any appeals or certiorari  
12 proceedings, unless allowed to withdraw.

13           IT FURTHER IS ORDERED that petitioner shall have until up to and including ninety  
14 (90) days from entry of this order within which to file an amended petition and/or seek other  
15 appropriate relief. Neither the foregoing deadline nor any extension thereof signifies or will signify  
16 any implied finding as to the expiration of the federal limitation period and/or of a basis for tolling  
17 during the time period established. Petitioner remains responsible for calculating the running of  
18 the federal limitation period and timely asserting claims, without regard to any deadlines  
19 established or extensions granted herein. That is, by setting a deadline to amend the petition and/or  
20 by granting any extension thereof, the Court makes no finding or representation that the petition,  
21 any amendments thereto, and/or any claims contained therein are not subject to dismissal as  
22 untimely. *See Sossa v. Diaz*, 729 F.3d 1225, 1235 (9th Cir. 2013).

1 IT FURTHER IS ORDERED that respondents shall file a response to the amended petition,  
2 including potentially by motion to dismiss, within sixty (60) days of service of an amended petition  
3 and that petitioner may file a reply thereto within thirty (30) days of service of the answer. The  
4 response and reply time to any motion filed by either party, including a motion filed in lieu of a  
5 pleading, shall be governed instead by Local Rule LR 7-2(b).

6 IT FURTHER IS ORDERED that any procedural defenses raised by respondents to the  
7 counseled amended petition shall be raised together in a single consolidated motion to dismiss. In  
8 other words, the Court does not wish to address any procedural defenses raised herein either in  
9 seriatum fashion in multiple successive motions to dismiss or embedded in the answer. Procedural  
10 defenses omitted from such motion to dismiss will be subject to potential waiver. Respondents  
11 shall not file a response in this case that consolidates their procedural defenses, if any, with their  
12 response on the merits, except pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b)(2) as to any unexhausted claims  
13 clearly lacking merit. If respondents do seek dismissal of unexhausted claims under § 2254(b)(2):  
14 (a) they shall do so within the single motion to dismiss not in the answer; and (b) they shall  
15 specifically direct their argument to the standard for dismissal under § 2254(b)(2) set forth in  
16 *Cassett v. Stewart*, 406 F.3d 614, 623-24 (9th Cir. 2005). In short, no procedural defenses,  
17 including exhaustion, shall be included with the merits in an answer. All procedural defenses,  
18 including exhaustion, instead must be raised by motion to dismiss.

19 IT FURTHER IS ORDERED that, in any answer filed on the merits, respondents shall  
20 specifically cite to and address the applicable state court written decision and state court record  
21 materials, if any, regarding each claim within the response as to that claim.

22 IT FURTHER IS ORDERED that any state court record and related exhibits filed herein  
23 by either petitioner or respondents shall be filed with a separate index of exhibits identifying the

1 exhibits by number. The CM/ECF attachments that are filed further shall be identified by the  
2 number or numbers of the exhibits in the attachment. If the exhibits filed will span more than one  
3 ECF Number in the record, the first document under each successive ECF Number shall be either  
4 another copy of the index, a volume cover page, or some other document serving as a filler, so that  
5 each exhibit under the ECF Number thereafter will be listed under an attachment number (i.e.,  
6 Attachment 1, 2, etc.).

7 IT FURTHER IS ORDERED that the hard copy of any exhibits filed by either counsel  
8 shall be delivered—for this case—to the Reno Clerk's Office. Courtesy copies of exhibits shall not  
9 be provided.

10 Dated: July 21, 2022

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12 ROBERT C. JONES  
13 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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